



Statewide Long-Range Multimodal Transportation Plan Policy Committee Meeting

Meeting Summary

February 19, 2004
10:30

Department of Rail and Public Transportation

Ms. Julia Connally opened the meeting at 10:30 AM and introduced the guests.

There was no public comment.

The January meeting minutes were approved.

Mr. John Sternlicht, Deputy Secretary of Commerce And Trade, presented “Planning in Economic Development and Transportation”. Mr. Sternlicht reviewed the development process of Governor Warner’s economic development strategic plan “One Virginia, One Future”. Mr. Sternlicht stated that there are more planning processes required each year, however, more often, these processes do not require coordination among related plans – thus reinforcing silo planning. The presentation emphasized the plan’s goals that are closely related to transportation. These included the basic economic development goal to maintain a strong business climate, recognizing that to remain competitive the three most important factors are education, work force development and transportation. Other related goals included concentrating economic development where the need is the greatest, improving welcome centers and other tourist related amenities, and encouraging the growth of Virginia’s economy through support of exports by Virginia companies and other forms of international trade. This last goal notes that to achieve this goal the state must have excellent ports and strong highway connections.

Mr. Sternlicht noted the transportation advantages enjoyed by Virginia, such as the port system, an extensive roadway system, commercial, general and international airports, and location. The Economic Development Partnership highlights these advantages when marketing Virginia to new businesses, and they have been very successful in bringing in new businesses. However, many companies considering locating in Virginia require significant transportation investments before agreeing to locate here, and a number of deals have fallen through partly due to lack of sufficient transportation infrastructure.

The committee continued the discussion of the connection between land use and transportation from the January meeting. Much of the conversation centered on silo

planning and the need for better coordination. Mr. McCracken stated that he did not believe that the lack of coordination was as bad as perceived, and that it was not that localities don't have a transportation plan, but that they don't have the resources to implement the plan. He also mentioned that many times, the locality will plan development in an area that has transportation improvements planned, but then those improvements do not materialize. Meanwhile, the development is underway without a sufficient transportation system to support it.

Mayor Dickens suggested that the state provide incentives to localities that plan wisely, or 'reward' localities that grow in a more compact manner. This would be a wiser use of limited state funds.

Secretary Clement suggested that there should be a process that ties funding to future decision-making. This will induce local governments to adhere to their land use plans.

Ms. Connally distributed a draft list of land use recommendations that had been compiled from previous meeting discussions. Mayor Dickens suggested that the committee should develop recommendations that can be implemented with policies rather than requiring legislation. Ms. Connally requested that the committee review the draft list of recommendations, consider what are the compelling recommendations that should be put forward, and provide comments by **Friday, February 27th**.

Secretary Clement stated that at this time the Secretary's office is not staffed to take on the responsibilities required by some of the recommendations. He noted that the next biennial budget should request funding to staff his office. He suggested that recommendations requesting the Secretary's Office *be responsible for* should be reworded to say *work toward*.

Mary Lynn Tischer briefly discussed the status on the final report. There will be two documents produced – a technical document that will be submitted to the General Assembly and a "user friendly" version for the general public. Mr. Ralph Davis requested that the plan include a series of recommendations and a plan of action for when the strategies will be implemented. The draft plan will initially be taken to the public through the Planning District Commission outreach sessions tentatively scheduled for spring.

Next meeting – Thursday, March 18, 2004
10:30 (immediately following CTB action meeting)
VDOT Auditorium
TOPICS – Rail and Public Outreach
Lunch will be provided

Policy Committee members present:

Karen Rae
Julia Connally
Jeff Florin (for Robert Bray)
Ralph Davis
Gerald McCarthy
Kenny Klinge
John Milliken
Charles Macfarlane
Philip Shucet

Guests:

Dana Dickens – City of Suffolk
John McCracken – Chesterfield County
John Sternlicht – Deputy Secretary of
Commerce and Trade
J. Phillips – Chesterfield County

Others present:

Whitt Clement
Kimberly Spence
Katherine Graham
Jim Lambert
Gus Robey
Ken Lantz
Mary Lynn Tischer
Ryan Ewalt
Tamika Lockhart
Michael Devlin